

## Action Item

### *California Postsecondary Education Commission*

#### Resolution on the California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative

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At its meeting on June 3, 2003, the Commission held a discussion with a diverse array of experts on issues pertaining to the value of student diversity on college campuses; the role admission processes and procedures play in achieving diverse student bodies; and the type of data necessary for measuring institutional success in achieving diversity. The Commission also heard presentations from the primary proponents and opponents of the California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative (formerly the Racial Privacy Initiative). Following the presentations, there was discussion concerning the implications of limiting race/ethnic data collection on the work of the Commission and the activities of California higher education institutions.

The California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative will appear on the next statewide election ballot.

The Commission will discuss and consider the adoption of a resolution expressing opposition to the Initiative. If adopted, the resolution will be transmitted to the Governor, Legislature, and People of California.

*Recommended Action:* Commission approval and adoption of the resolution.



## **Resolution Opposing The California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative**

- Whereas,** the California Postsecondary Education Commission has a long-standing commitment to promoting access to a postsecondary education for all Californians in the most fair and equitable manner; and
- Whereas,** the Commission is committed to assuring that California colleges and universities reflect the diverse nature of the State's population; and
- Whereas,** the Commission believes that student diversity on the college campus is defined by a variety of factors including race and ethnicity, gender, socio-economic characteristics, and geographic representation, among others; and
- Whereas,** it is important that policy makers have available to them those data that are necessary to assess the effectiveness of state policies designed to achieve student diversity on the college campus; and
- Whereas,** the Commission collects race and ethnic data to serve several purposes, including: academic research; assessing applications, admissions, and the enrollment of students; evaluating the provision of financial aid; assessing outreach efforts to students who historically have not participated in higher education; examining faculty and staff employment; and for institutional planning and research; and
- Whereas,** the voters of California will consider at the next Statewide Election a Constitutional Amendment known as the California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative that would limit the ability of governmental agencies like the Commission to collect data on race and ethnicity pertaining to students, faculty, and staff at California colleges and universities; and
- Whereas,** the Commission believes that it is imperative to have race and ethnicity information for it to continue to conduct high-quality research and policy analysis; and
- Whereas,** the Commission is in partnership with the United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, which requires the collection of race and ethnicity data; now be it
- Resolved,** that the Commission opposes the imposition of any limitations on its ability to collect those data that are necessary for it to conduct its independent research, planning, and analysis responsibilities; and be it further
- Resolved** that the Commission opposes the California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative, and that its opposition to this Initiative be transmitted to the Governor, Legislature, and People of the State of California.